

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-10 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15

RSC-01 IO-13 MC-02 SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PRS-01 A-01 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 /141 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP:GCARTER/JAN

APPROVED BY PM:HLINDJORD

S/CCT - LHOFFACKER (DRAFT)

NEA - ALATHERTON (DRAFT)

EUR - WJSTOESSEL (DRAFT)

PM/MAS - DFARNHAM (DRAFT)

IO/UNP - LTSTULL (DRAFT)

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P 201317Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 187035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UR, UK, IT, US

SUBJECT: TERRORIST POSSESSION OF SOVIET ORIGIN

GROUND-TO-AIR WEAPONS

1. ITALIAN POLICE APPREHENDED GROUP OF FIVE ARAB TERRORISTS NEAR ROME AIRPORT ON 5 SEPTEMBER. TERRORISTS' WEAPONS INCLUDED TWO MAN-PORTABLE GROUND-TO-AIR MISSILE LAUNCHERS OF SOVIET ORIGIN (STRELA/GRAIL SA-7). IT IS BELIEVED THAT AN ATTACK ON AN ISRAELI AIRLINER MIGHT HAVE BEEN INTENDED. AS ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION, AN ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT FROM THE 6 SEPTEMBER EDITION OF THE IL MESSAGERO IS BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.

2. DECISION HAS BEEN MADE HERE TO CALL IN THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR AT A HIGH LEVEL TO REITERATE OUR REQUEST THAT
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THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE UN-

AUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF SOVIET SA-7 WEAPONS. WE WILL ASSURE THE SOVIETS THAT WE INTEND TO CONTINUE EXERCISING APPROPRIATE CONTROLS AND TRANSFER RESTRAINTS WITH REGARD TO THE COMPARABLE US WEAPON, REDEYE. FYI. PRIOR APPROACH WAS MADE WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY LAST YEAR AND WE WERE LATER INFORMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO CONTROL THE UNAUTHORIZED TRANSFER OF GRAIL. END FYI.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING THE BRITISH OF OUR INTENDED APPROACH TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY. YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT THE BRITISH, AS THE ONLY OTHER PRODUCERS OF A COMPARABLE MISSILE, THE BLOWPIPE, MIGHT WISH TO RAISE WITH THE SOVIETS THE ROME INCIDENT AND EXPRESS CONCERN OVER PROLIFERATION OF THIS TYPE OF WEAPON. ASSUMING THE UK INTENDS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT IN TRANSFERRING BLOWPIPE, THE BRITISH COULD USEFULLY POINT THIS OUT TO THE SOVIETS. RUSH

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ISP:GCARTER/JAN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS LINDJORD
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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